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For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ PLAYGROUND: Mom petitions for change after cat feces found

Kiddies and kitty litter don't mix



MARYANNE FIRTH / QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Port Colborne mother Jayme-Lynn Lilley has petitioned the city to see the sand base of the DeWitt Carter Playground replaced with another material. The sand is being used by animals as a make-shift litter box, she says, and has become a health hazard.

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Jayne-Lynn Lilley was left in a state of disbelief.

When her four-year-old daughter first began coming home from school each day with a coat covered in muck, she wasn't quite sure what to make of it.

But on closer inspection, she was appalled at what she found.

Feces. And plenty of it.

The youngster had been playing in the city-owned playground beside DeWitt Carter Public School, where, it seems, neighbourhood animals have made a habit of doing their business.

The park's sand base was being used as "a giant litter box" for area cats, said Lilley, who lives only two blocks away.

Knowing many community children who use the park regularly, she hoped to have the sand removed. She created a petition asking the city to replace the sand in the park with a different material and collected more than 300 signatures.

On Monday night, Lilley presented the petition and pleaded her case to city council.

See PLAYGROUND on Page 2

Photo: HometownRealEstateGuy.com

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LOCAL NEWS

■ PLAYGROUND

Port mom wants new play ground for kids

From Page 1

After hearing Lille's story, Ward, 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais questioned whether any funds could be found in the 2014 budget to have the sand replaced, possibly with wood fibre seen at other Port Colborne playgrounds. DeWitt Carter park is the last in the city with a sand base.

The park may be a health hazard to not only children, but also pregnant women who attend to watch their children play, said Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet.

Peter Senese, director of community and corporate services, said he'd have to

investigate how much money is available in the city's development fund that could potentially be used for the project.

Port Colborne has 17 playgrounds in parks and an 18-year-old lifersen of 15 to 17 years, said director of engineering and operations Ron Hanson.

DeWitt Carter Playground is scheduled for a full replacement in 2018 at a cost of \$63,000. It would cost about \$15,000 to replace only the base, he said.

Hanson recommended the city move the playground up in the replacement waiting list

to address the issue in 2014. Desmarais suggested that if the funds cannot be found to fix the park this year, it should be closed in the meantime.

As the park is used daily by students at the nearby elementary school, closing it would not be a good idea, space said, said director of engineering and operations Ron Hanson.

"I don't want to see that park closed down. We need to find a way to get rid of that cartollet."

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott called it a "no-brainer" when dealing with the health and safety of residents.

"Shutting it down isn't

going to help. Wherever we find the money, whether we need to borrow it, we have to fix it this year," he said.

Staff will be bringing a report to the March 24 council meeting outlining options for addressing the issue.

"That would be the best outcome I could've expected," Lille said, adding she'll be in attendance at the coming meeting to see what happens.

"I hope they follow through," she said.

"I know it's a lot of money, but it's also a health hazard."

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MARIANNE FIRTH/QMI AGENCY/NIGARA

■ EDUCATION: Port High alumni and brothers provide funding for smartboards

Octogenarians in touch with modern-day learning

GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Now in their 80s, brothers Stephen and John Miklosik remember scribbling in the margins of the notes they took in their high school while teachers screeched chalk across a blackboard.

They're still keen on what happens in the classrooms at Port High, which is why they decided to provide today's students with the latest technology in learning, at a time when a teacher's smile may soon be photographed with a cellphone or downloaded at home.

The alumni donated what they called a "modest" \$28,000 to the school, which has afforded five new smartboards and seven projectors, plus small purchases that included iPod Minis.

"This will basically put smartboards in every classroom," said guidance coun-



GREG FURNINGER/QMI AGENCY/NIGARA

Grade 12 student Allison Benson demonstrates the smartboard technology that Stephen Miklosik and brother John both seated in the background. They are from Port Colborne High School with their \$28,000 donation. Also pictured is guidance counsellor Barclay Walker and principal Nigel Evans.

sellor Barclay Walker, bringing the school's total up to 20.

A smartboard uses projected images that can be touched and manipulated directly to a screen.

"It grabs kids' attention and gets them involved in

what goes on in the classroom," Walker said.

Personal support worker Crystal Pogson said it allows her to conduct lessons without turning her back to students.

"It's a fun way of learning. It sticks with you a little

■ MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Cost of Wainfleet council tops \$80,000

Pelham News Staff

Wainfleet taxpayers shelled out more than \$80,000 last year for the services of one mayor and four aldermen.

Whether they feel they got their money's worth should be known after this fall's election.

In 2013 Mayor April Jeffs paid a salary of \$20,632.82 and councillors were each paid a base wage of \$1,364.36.

One third of those wages is tax-free.

Those wages added to pay-

ments for benefits, phone and Internet allowances, reimbursements for food and conference spending, plus a mileage allowance for the mayor, meant township council cost a total \$80,271.04 last year.

Mayor April Jeffs' service cost residents a total \$25,060.04.

For aldermen, Richard Dykstra's remuneration total was \$15,913.08, David Wyatt's total was \$15,296.88, Ted Hesels was \$11,901.28.

The Municipal Act requires remuneration and expenses paid to council and board members be prepared by March 31 each year.

Expenses for Wainfleet's five-member committee of adjustment totalled \$2,949.03 while expenses for the four-member library board totalled \$1,200.



MAYOR APRIL JEFFS



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LOCAL NEWS

■ BOOKS: Author's second book an inspirational read

'I wanted my story known for my kids'

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Inport News Staff

When Dunnville author Josie Penny wrote her first book *So Few on Earth: A Labrador Metis Woman Remembers*, her only goal was to leave a gift of heritage to her four children, Gregory, Darlene, Catherine and Mark.

"I wanted my story known for my kids. I wanted them to know that they're a product of strong people," said Penny. "I really didn't expect it to get published."

Following the success of *So Few on Earth* she was encouraged to write a second book after ending it with her journey to Goose Bay. Her second book *On the Goose: A Labrador Metis Woman Remembers* was released last week.

Penny didn't embrace her Metis heritage until the release of her first book, and said when she was growing up in Labrador she had just native Labrador on the coast.

"I came from the trapping, fishing and hunting to survive generation. I've accepted and I'm very proud to be Metis. We're a very strong, resilient people," said Penny.

Only the strong survived growing up in Labrador. Food was scarce and their clothes were homemade and there was no medical care available. Penny was taken away to a residential school, abused by the students, raped and became increasingly angry.

At the age of 17, she decided to move to Goose Bay to start her new life. She married a duck hunter and the first book read by Dunnville Publishing. It follows the story of how she met her husband, Keith, his struggle with alcoholism and abuse and how she overcame many obstacles.

"When you read this book you're going to love him, hate him, love him and then hate him again. We were two very different people trying to raise a family," said Josie, who now lives married to Keith for 50 years.

"I'm not worried with what people are going to think. I've been sober since 1987 and I'm proud of what I've accomplished. I had a real problem with alcohol and abuse but I don't have a problem anymore," said Keith. "There is stuff in there that I didn't like to read about because it brings back memories that I don't like to remember, but I am proud of both of her books," he said.

Josie and Keith's four children found out about the history of abuse when *The Goose* was published.

"Our children are big people in terms of emotional well-being. My daughter Darlene has read it three times now. It was her first time reading all the sad stories, but she gave it a really good review," said Josie.

She said though the book doesn't make Keith look good, he didn't hesitate to be a part of it.

"She's writing her life story and I'm a part of that life. We worked through a lot, both of us with alcohol addiction, we grew up and we moved on," he said.

Being an author wasn't something Josie felt was possible because she only had a Grade 6 education.

"Writing a book wasn't my dream until after I came to Ontario in 1983. Penny attended McMaster University to get a degree in writing, and ended up getting a diploma from Long Ridge Writers Group in Connecticut.

"When I get something in my head I want to do, I do it. I like with it," she said. "I really hope



Dunnville author Josie Penny has released her second book, *On the Goose*. It follows her struggles growing up in Labrador, being sent to a residential school and various forms of abuse.

this does inspire someone to write their story. If no one tells their stories, then there is no history."

Books are for sale at Flyers Café in Dunnville, and Chestnut Lane Café. They are also in most major bookstores and are

available online at www.azmon.ca or www.dundurn.com. For more information on Josie visit www.sofewonearth.com, melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca

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228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5
Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660
import.news@sunmedia.ca

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ourview

The Internet turns 25

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

It's been 25 years, an eye-blink really, since the worldwide web was born.

In those 2½ decades, the Internet has changed everything from how we view copyright laws to the way children interact with other.

For good or ill, the Internet is everywhere.

"The kinds of ways people behave remain the same," said Zupito Marini, a professor of psychology at Brock University who studies the impact of cyber life on youth.

What the Internet has done is create a bigger playground for that behaviour to be expressed in."

Marini studies the way young people use the Internet, particularly the impact of cyber bullying.

In the past, bullying was essentially limited by the size of the arena a bully could operate in, he said.

"That meant it was limited to the schoolyard," he said.

Now that arena has been expanded to the entire planet thanks to the Internet. A bully can follow the target of his or her wrath online or anywhere else the victim chooses to go.

Marini is, however, a flip side.

Marini said the ubiquitous nature of the Internet means some bullies have been exposed and disseminated quickly, just as the digital world might encourage people to behave in bad ways, having such a large audience also encourages them to perform publicly in a good way.

Fellow Brock professor, political science teacher Blayne Haggart, also studies the Internet. He has looked closely at its impact on copyrights and what that means for our culture.

Haggart said because the Internet allows information — including music, movies, books and other art — to be transmitted anywhere at the speed of light, old ideas of copyright don't necessarily still apply.

People can share and be inspired to create their own works in a way that simply did not exist prior to the dawn of the world wide web.

But it has also made piracy easier and forced media companies and distributors to change their business models.

"It may mean that we have to take a hard look at what we want from our copyright laws," Haggart said. "The thing is, the media companies — the music producers and film companies — they are doing fine. It's the artist that is getting the short end of the stick."

"But sadly, that has always historically been the case."

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Why the cross?

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Colborne

Almost every Christian worship space has a cross in it. It is, or perhaps ought to be, the central visual symbol in Christian worship. It is also the central focus of Lent. Contrary to what I've heard a number of times on TV and radio, Lent is not only a Roman Catholic observance. While I grant that not every Christian denomination observes this season of the church year many do.

Lent last for the six-and-a-half weeks before Easter, starting with Ash Wednesday. The word Lent comes from the old English word that simply means spring. In the northern hemisphere the beginning of spring does come during Lent but Lent is about more than an astronomical phenomenon and a change in seasons.

Lent is a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. St. Paul writes, "We have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that,

just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we might also be the likeness of life" (Romans 6:5). Lent is a time for rebirth and a renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Lent is also a time to ponder the cross and its meaning for Christians. The cross was a cruel instrument of torture and death which the Roman Empire reserved for rebellious slaves, violent criminals, and threatening political subversives. It was put to death on a cross. It seems the Romans treated as he didn't deny being "King of the Jews" but as part of the Roman Empire, only the emperor, at the time Tiberius, had that authority.

So why the cross, this instrument of torture, pain, and death, this symbol that has such a central place in the lives of so many Christians? It is because the cross is the symbol of the cross, that God meets us. In weakness, vulnerability, suffering, forsakenness, and death God makes himself present. In our darkness, our pain, our emptiness, our loneliness, our weakness, God finds us.

On the cross Jesus said yes to the way of absolute trust in God the Father. On the cross Jesus said yes to the way of self-denial and to be human again. On the cross Jesus said yes to the way of freedom to be human, to be weak, to be vulnerable.

In the shadow of the cross we can admit to our humanity and our frailty. In the shadow of the cross we realize that we need Christ and we need each other. In the shadow of the cross we can fully understand the joyful Good News that we can be in union with God as a gift, justified by grace through faith is the way it has historically been articulated. And we follow Jesus in the way of the cross—the way of radical, vulnerable, risking, trusting, obedient, self-surrendering, joyful submission to the will of God.

The last words we speak in the liturgy of Lent are: "Greater than our worship service are these: 'We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.' May this be your prayer. May you keep a holy Lent. God bless you."

readers' views

SAVE THE COYOTES

Throughout Canadian history, coyotes have obliterated in part of the west. This led to an explosive population of wild hares, which consumed vegetation. I recently heard a conversation in Dunnville, where a cattle farmer bragged he is eagerly awaiting hunters to kill 100 coyotes on his property, insisting it is necessary to protect his livestock. Killing was the only answer in his mind. Foxes can tolerate, and in the need coyotes, even if they spend a couple of days in responsibility to keep livestock, dogs, cats and pets safe by securing them. Can you imagine the temptation for a starving coyote trying desperately to raise a family in the winter conditions when it comes upon mouth-watering unprotected animals? Do you blame the coyotes and take its life?

Canadian wildlife belongs to every Canadian, but those hunting them among us take it upon themselves to just hunt and kill.

FAYE SUTHERNS
WAINFLEET

HOSPITAL LOCATION MISSES THE SOUTH

I agree with Henry Miron's letter expressing the fact that south Niagara citizens will be without a south Niagara hospital if the new hospital is not in the proposed location. Since when is Niagara Falls considered the centre of south Niagara? But the recent letter from Wally Mole expresses it perfectly. Living in Port Colborne, I could only experience the symptoms of a heart attack, a call to the coroner rather than 911 would probably be more productive.

ELYSE WALLINGFORD
PORT COLBORNE

TOO MUCH IS AT STAKE

The money generated through the LCBO is not a minor detail. Liquor has a large revenue. The LCBO delivered a \$1.7-billion profit in 2012-13. This is a profit with almost another billion dollars coming from taxes and duties associated with purchases of liquor. Looking to the past, we can also deduce that government prohibi-

tion has always been a major focus. Even within the last decade, our government has objected to many proposed ideas, such as being able to sell alcohol in convenience stores, and the probability of Ontario following the footsteps of Alberta are slim to none. In the end, if the government makes more money, that's what matters.

BRAD RICHARDSON
RIDGEWAY

FAITH IN MANKIND RESTORED

I am a senior citizen living in Port Colborne. I was recently pondering how I was going to get across Killyard St. and avoid construction, cables, ice, potholes and traffic. The traffic light on the corner of Killyard and Keweenaw was not functioning due to construction. A very thoughtful construction worker stopped laying cable and offered his arm to help me across the intersection. It may have been a small act of kindness on his part, but it meant the world to me. I hope the construction company realizes that it doesn't hurt their image either.

JACKIE YOUNG
PORT COLBORNE

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LOCAL NEWS

■ ENVIRONMENT: Resolution passed unanimously by council

Port Colborne opposes OPC's nuclear waste repository

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Port Colborne is backing opposers of a proposed nuclear waste repository to be built near the shore of Lake Huron.

The city's environmental committee created a resolution, which was passed unanimously at Monday night's city council meeting, calling on the government to create an alternative plan.

Ontario Power Generation is propos-

ing to construct the underground long-term burial facility for all of the province's low- and intermediate-level radioactive nuclear waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, much of which is highly radioactive and will remain toxic for more than 100,000 years.

The proposed site is about one kilometre inland from the shore of Lake Huron and about 400 metres below the lake level in Kincardine.

As Port Colborne also sits on one of the Great Lakes, the environmental committee felt it important to get involved in the process, said Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny.

Beverly Fernandez, spokesperson for Stop the Great Lakes Nuclear Dump, called it "fantastic" that council unanimously

approved a resolution in opposition of the repository.

"It's an important issue people in Canada and the world need to be involved in," said Ms. Fernandez. The group began its fight against the proposed repository a year-and-a-half ago. 44 resolutions have been approved representing 9.3 million people, she said.

The group's petition has also collected 50,000 signatures.

For more information on Stop the Great Lakes Nuclear Dump or to sign the petition, visit www.stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com.

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LOCAL NEWS

BUSINESS: Golf cart company preparing for move to Port Colborne

'We want to be a good neighbour'

MARYANN FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Birdie Golf Carts plans to show the Sherkston community that it can be a good neighbour.

After recently winning its appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board, the company intends to begin building its new repair and retail shop sooner than later on the northwest corner of Sherkston and Empire Rds. in Port Colborne.

In May, city council denied the necessary rezoning of the property to permit the development after strong opposition from area residents.

Birdie's proposal was ultimately deemed by the OMB as a fit for the hamlet, as the proposal complies with

Port Colborne's official plan.

Company representatives have since met with the city's planning department to begin the process of moving the development forward, said Birdie general manager Mike Macdonald. "We'd like to have at least part of the building completed by July 1 with the intention of having the entire facility up and running by summer of 2015."

Macdonald sees no difficulty in moving into a neighbourhood where opposition has been strong.

"I see it as an opportunity to change people's perspective and views of us," he said.

"We want to be a good neighbour."

Asked whether mitigating measures would be taken to help alleviate

some citizen concerns, Macdonald said the company will "address everything we can see," though details have yet to be finalized.

"We're going to do our best to be a good neighbour and create the kind of place that the neighbourhood deserves," he said.

Macdonald said he understands that most people don't want development across the street from their homes, but believes the public is not aware of the scope and scale of our

business."

"We're not an environmentally dirty business. We're a quiet business," he said. "We pride ourselves on having a clean facility."

Plans are to create an "appealing" facility that "looks good when you go past," he said. He estimated the project will cost about \$500,000.

Surveyors will be going to the property next week to collect necessary data that will help the

development take its next steps.

The company now has to submit a site plan control, providing detailed drawings and information on the development to the city's planning department, said community planner Linda Pitcher.

Once a site plan agreement is approved, Birdie can apply for its building permit.

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■ **MTO:** Legislation was put in place in 1974

Tunnel designation lifted in Port Colborne

MARVANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

After three decades, Port Colborne has been freed from a designation that left it handcuffed from developing certain parts of the city.

Ministry of Transportation recently lifted a Hwy. 3 controlled access highway designation originally put in place in 1974.

The corridor where a proposed tunnel was to be built runs from Cedar Bay Rd. through a stretch of land between Hwy. 3 and Killaby St., and ended at the city's western boundary.

Port Colborne has been working for about 15 years to have the designation lifted, said Mayor Vance Badaway, as it has impeded development for abutting properties. Several visits have been made to Queen's Park to try and mitigate the issue.

"It has affected many properties and development opportunities," Badaway said, as it caused challenges for those

looking to invest in the city.

"It has been a thorn in our side for the better part of three decades."

Ron Hanson, the city's director of engineering and operations, said when the tunnel was proposed, "when people thought it was going to happen."

At the time, there were only two bridges in Port Colborne, he said, which caused "major gridlock" when ships were moving through the canal.

The tunnel would have "wiped out a large amount of property" and caused people to bypass much of the city, Badaway said.

It has been "a lot of hard work" to have the designation lifted, he said, but he's pleased with the result.

"This is great news for the city. It allows the challenges (the designation) created to be dealt with."

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INPORT NEWS



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■ MOVING NIGHTMARE

Truck's arrival brings tears

GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

The biggest part of Kim and David Lague's moving nightmare is now behind them.

End tables, family photo albums and bins of clothes were transported Monday by a Sixth St. Welland home from a moving van more than six months after a moving company loaded them onto a truck in Nova Scotia's Amherstville Valley.

But the Lagues' possessions weren't coming from the moving truck that arrived on their doorstep last August — it was from Rawlinson Moving and Storage, a Mississauga-based company and agent of United Van Lines, which moved the family from the winter grave in which they sat in Montreal.

"I cried when the truck pulled up," said Kim, anxious for her hit list to be unloaded.

"If I wasn't paralyzed, I'd be doing the Cape Breton Jig," said the 53-year-old.

"These guys are a blessing sent by God," she said, motioning how she had caressed the cheek of one of the four movers who were unloading the goods from a 28-foot truck into David's sister's home where she has been sleeping on a basement air mattress for so long.

"I just wanted to hug the movers," she said.

But not the movers she and David had paid.

The Lagues hired a Quebec company last summer to complete their move to Ontario, with five weeks' storage included for \$1,695.

They found similar estimates, verified the company was legit with the province's business registration and confirmed it files taxes. And the movers did a walk-through before loading boxes and bins.

"But you can go through all those checks, and still be taken," Kim said.

Over the past half-year the Lagues never got past any of their belongings — and did get excuses about delays caused by bad weather and mechanical problems.

During their ordeal, a house deal fell through in Chatham, as did a job for 56-year-old David.

The couple were also told to pay more than \$4,000 cash when they wanted to get their belongings, which they eventually did pay.

Police said their case is a breach of contract matter for the civil courts — not a crime.

Although they'd like to see the moving company they hired arrested, they do plan to sue.

But for now, they're smiling again, seeing belongings they even forgot they had now back in their hands.

"I can breathe," said Kim. "I've been holding in the anger, the frus-

tration for six months, but this morning that all released.... I'd believed we lost everything."

David, too, had reason to smile. Even about some of the smaller things that had been recovered, including his framed university diploma and graduation photos of a much less gassy.

However, there was still reason to vent Monday.

He called it "disheartening" to see boxes marked fragile crushed. Some items were covered in mildest.

"Allied (Van Lines) told us when they got there everything was just

thrown into the (other mover's) truck.

"They said furniture wasn't wrapped, things were gouged," he said.

"I want these people arrested. They destroyed our van and they destroyed our house."

David had to pay \$100 for a backhoe contractor to dig the movers' possessed moving truck — located with about 80% of his possessions — out from snow last week in the parking lot of a Montreal leasing company.

Rawlinson Moving and Storage

president Jim Carney was moved by the Lagues' sad story and had one of his crews unload that truck and wrap furniture and other fragile items before putting them onto his truck.

"It was just absolutely disgusting. Whoever (initially) loaded it had no concern for the fragile household goods moving truck," said Carney who changed the Lagues not one cent for his company's efforts.

He even surprised Kim in person Monday with a bouquet of fresh flowers.

See MOVE on Page 10

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■ MOVE

Couple finally have belongings back

From Page 9

"I've never heard in 36 years that I've been in this industry, I've never heard of a case going on six months — and it's still not over. There are still people in Nova Scotia that are still trying to live there."

As a businessman and a board member of the respected Canadian Movers Association, Carney said he felt compelled to help the Leguas.

He said there is a growing number of rogue movers preying on homeowners. In

many cases they operate websites that purport a legitimate business, yet they may not even own a moving vehicle.

And he said, there doesn't seem to be any government body that wants to take a stand against these shady outfits.

"As a result," Carney added, "they just continue to pop up like there's no tomorrow."

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■ GOVERNMENT: Province announces \$100M in infrastructure investment

Port gets \$2M for Lakeshore watermain

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Port Colborne's pipe dream has come true.

The city learned Tuesday it will receive \$2 million from the provincial government's Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund for its Lakeshore Rd. W. watermain rehabilitation project.

Through the project, a new watermain

will be installed on Cement Rd. and Lakeshore Rd. W.

Projects eligible for the funding had to meet health and safety criteria and Lakeshore was the chosen project due to "adverse water samples" in the area, said Ron Hanson, the city's director of engineering and operations.

The water quality issues are related to the existing dead- end cast iron watermain, which replaced will be connected to Port Colborne's existing water system.

Hanson said there is also an issue with lack of water pressure for firefighting in the area.

Design of the project and all accompanying environmental studies will get underway in the coming months, Hanson said, and a tender is expected to be issued before the end of the year.

In accordance with the provincial government's funding commitment, the contract for construction must be awarded by March 1, 2015, and the project must be completed by the end of 2015.

The project is estimated to cost \$2.8 million, Hanson said. Council has budgeted the remaining \$800,000 to fill the gap.

"This is huge for us. It lets us to bring the project forward in the prioritized list and is allowing us to move forward," he said of the funding announcement.

The provincial government announced investment of \$100 million in total to help municipalities build and maintain critical infrastructure.

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■ EMPLOYMENT

Job prospects best in north Niagara

GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

South Niagara residents in search of work may want to look north to St. Catharines.

According to the latest Manpower Employment Outlook Survey, Welland-Port Colborne area employers expect a "fair" hiring climate for April to June.

"Fair doesn't mean doom and gloom," said local Manpower spokesman Greg Furninger.

He said 13% of employers plan to hire for the upcoming quarter, while 17% in Niagara Falls indicate they will be hiring.

Across Canada, a modest hiring climate is forecast by employers, with those in the construction and transportation and public utilities sectors reporting the strongest job prospects.

It's a similar case in the region.

"A lot of employers across Niagara are looking for skilled trades, or semi-skilled trades workers," Mancini said.

The survey of more than 1,900 employers across Canada showed 16% plan to increase their staffing levels from April to June, while 4% indicate cutbacks.

He suggested many of those jobs could be related to transportation and construction projects delayed by the long winter. They also represent jobs in non-occupational areas.

While about 4,000 people turned out for Outlet Collection at Niagara job fair at the start of the month, for about 1,500 jobs that will be available when the Niagara-on-the-Lake mall opens May 15, Mancini said those employment figures do not

People looking for work will want to mark April 16 on their calendar, when Job Gym and Seaway Mall will co-host a daylong spring job fair. The event promises offers of summer, student, full- and part-time jobs.

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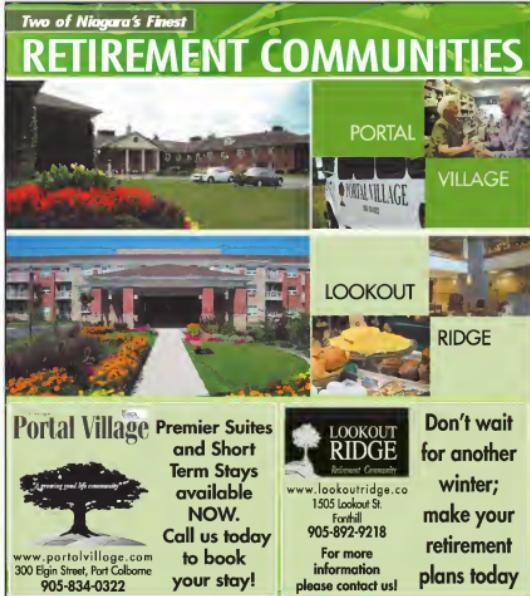
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BUSINESS

Brimestone sizzles at Sanctuary

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

An architect and a one-time Canadian customs officer have joined together to develop the only craft-beer brewery in Fort Erie — in the basement of a 20th-century former church.

Jason Pizzicarola and Rod Daigle successfully rezoned a property in downtown Ridgeway for the venture, which was licensed at the end of June.

Since then, Pizzicarola, a Fort Erie architect, and Daigle, who spent 23 years as a customs officer in the Yukon, Ottawa, Montreal and, for 2 1/2 years, Fort Erie, have been brewing in their basement.

The Brimestone Brewing Company operates out of the Sanctuary Centre of the Arts on Ridge Rd. It used to be a Methodist church that is now used as a multi-purpose arts and entertainment venue. Pizzicarola owns the building.

The two met at a business improvement association meeting after Daigle moved to town three years ago. At the time, Pizzicarola, who was then president of the organization, wanted to introduce a brewery into the sanctuary. When Daigle, originally from New Brunswick, came to the meeting and pitched the idea, the two got talking.

"He had the space and the five-year vision and I had a little bit of brewing knowledge and wanted to go further with it," says Daigle.

"We're up and running now with our

smaller system ... now we're scaling it up," adds Pizzicarola.

Brimestone is currently a 2.34 hectolitre nanobrewery. In the coming weeks, it will expand to also include a 15 hectolitre — 1,500-litre — system.

"It's very much a functional brewery," says Daigle. "In the front side of what we'll have a tap room that will be a nice, cozy environment where you can try all our different beers that we make. It's going to lead out to a patio and we'll do more of a beer garden outside through the summer months and into the shoulder season as well."

The expansion is expected to be completed by May.

"It's a whole lot more laborious work and planning than most people anticipate at the get go," says Daigle. "It takes a lot of time. Essentially what we started with was just a small basement brewing operation. We started with roughly a double-size batch, what most home brewers would make on their kitchen stove, but what you have to build into it is consistency and some repeatability for the commercial world."

"From there, we decided we wanted to (expand) ... identical science, identical procedures ... just on a larger, grander scale."

He says the idea is to roll out a number of beers — "all beers that we are proud of and want to drink."

See BREW on Page 15

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LOCAL NEWS

■ BREW

One-of-a-kind brewery in Ridgeway

From Page 34

Daigle says he and Pizzicarola favour more malty, hoppy beers, but appreciate that not everybody is interested in that style.

He says the company's flagship beer will be a blonde, or pale, ale.

"Even that beer, we want it to still be more flavourful than a run-of-the-mill microbrewery."

Brimstone is also working on a stone-fired ale, which is a "historical process of actually heating stones separately and then chucking them in."

"We can do it on our small scale, now we're trying to figure out how we can keep that beer on a larger scale."

Daigle attended a three-month brewing program at the Siebel Institute of Technology out of Chicago. The institute has been teaching brewing for more than 100 years. Part of the program includes a trip to

Munich, Germany.

"When we decided to grow from the minuscule, little nano operation that we had into something that we wanted to sell in a microbrewery, we decided, OK, let's actually get some more education behind us."

Pizzicarola says the business complements the sanctuary, which hosts art galleries and live music.

"There's an artistry to it all here and we think that, with craft beer, there's an artistry to it as well," he says.

"We have a tap at our events. Downstairs we have the tap room where you can fill up growlers and leave with them and we'll also have bottles."

Pizzicarola says the plan is to start selling Brimstone beer at limited LCBOs late this year or early 2015.

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LOCAL NEWS

BIZBLLINE

Star treatment for Niagara's top entrepreneurs

The region's top entrepreneurial talent was honoured Friday at the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, a dinner gala held at the Sheraton on the Falls hotel in Niagara Falls.

Awards were handed out in nine juried categories plus three bestowal award categories.

About 450 guests including alumni, nominees and local business and community leaders attended the 20th annual event.

"Each year we have an excellent pool of nominees," said Lisa Cairns, executive director of the Awards. "This year, we again

had such high quality and high-end nominations."

"So the judges had a trying time, I'm sure, though they do have a (rigorous) scoring system."

In the Emerging Entrepreneur category, the winner was Sue-Ann Staff of Sue-Ann Staff Estate Winery. For the Agriculture Enterprise award, Mike Van Steeckenburg and Nel Van Steeckenburg of CosMic Plants won. Both businesses are Jordan entries.

International Trade Award winners were James Garrington and Wendy Garrington, of Shark Marine Technologies Inc. in St.

Catherines.

Shannon Passero of Shannon Passero Design Inc. in Thorold took home the Innovative Small Business award.

Two awards went for Tourism Enterprise — Blair and Nancy Jane Harber of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery and Restaurant in St. Davids, and Marianne Tykolls-Casey and Terry and Tim Tykolls of Stevensville's Safari Niagara.

Christopher Lewis of Tri-Recycling Solutions Inc. in Welland was presented the Environmental Enterprise award.

In the Technological



Innovation award, category, Wayne Elliott and James Byles, of Port Colborne's Raw Materials Company Inc. took top prize.

Mark Casciano of Mountainview Homes in Thorold won this year's Family Enterprise award.

David Thompson of Dan's Produce in Niagara Falls took the prize in the Established Enterprise category.

For the bestowed awards, the recipient for lifetime achievement was Paul House, of Tim Hortons.

Ed Kendall received the Community Contribution award, and the late Stevensville-born James L. Kraft of Kraft Foods fame was honoured with this year's Historical Hall of Fame award.

New name

The Victorian Villas Hotel & Spa in Niagara-on-the-Lake recently changed

its name to 124 on Queen Hotel & Spa. Highly rated by TripAdvisor, the site opened in 2011 as a small collection of multi-room villas and grew to include two guest rooms, a spa and Treadwell cuisine.

Salon sets up

A man's hair salon — Tootzie's Tyme-Up Guyz Hair & Maintenance — has reved up at 153 Scott St. in north St. Catharines.

The licensed automotive-themed "guyz" offers boys' and men's haircuts and shaves.

It also has full spa services such as foot detailing, massages, facials and waxing and features multiple televisions with guy-friendly programming. The new salon number is 905-934-4899.

The Bizzline column appears weekly. Send your north Niagara business story / information tips to: don.fraser@sunmedia.ca or call 905-684-7251, ext. 1161.

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The Philadelphia Story

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by Edward Bond

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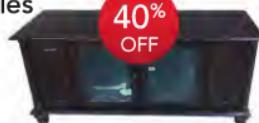
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\$1M ticket sold in Welland

GREG FURNINGER
OML Agency Niagara

There could be a new millionaire in Welland. A winning ticket for the guaranteed

\$1-million prize draw offered by Lotto 6/49 was sold in the Rose City, OLG said Monday morning.

The draw took place on Saturday, March 15.

The winner has not yet stepped forward. "At this point it's not unusual for a winner

IMPORT NEWS

■ THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014

OLG's new Guaranteed \$1 Million Prize Draw offers players 104 more chances to become a millionaire each year — one draw at a time, senior vice-president Greg McKenzie said in a news release.

There have been 64 guaranteed-million-dollar prizes to date. Twenty-nine of the winning tickets have been sold in Ontario.

This Thursday's Lotto 6/49 jackpot is worth an estimated \$14 million, plus the guaranteed million-dollar prize draw.

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Pharmacists LAXATIVES AND CONSTIPATION

Very rarely does a day go by where there isn't a question about constipation from a patient stopping by the pharmacy. Most patients want to know what they should take that is available without a prescription.

Constipation is a symptom that occurs when waste moves too slowly through the body, resulting in stool that is dry and hard. This often makes it difficult and painful to pass.

Some medications such as antidiarrheals, water pills, and certain pain killers (such as Oxycontin and Codeine) may cause constipation.

The frequency of bowel movements varies from person to person, from as little as twice a week to a couple of times a day, and is affected by diet, medications, and exercise.

If you are having trouble going to the washroom, the first thing a pharmacist will usually recommend is increasing the amount of fibre in the diet by eating whole grains, fruits and vegetables. In addition, drinking at least 8 glasses of water will minimize constipation.

If these suggestions do not work, there are several options available to you.

For short-term treatment of constipation, (if you haven't been to the washroom in several days), a saline laxative such as Milk of Magnesia can be tried. Alternatively glycerin suppositories work quite well. If symptoms still do not resolve you could consider an enema with the advice of your physician.

Stimulant laxatives such as Duloxitox and Sennokot can also be used to maintain regularity. If you are on long term narcotic therapy you may need to take these types of medications as long as you are taking the narcotics.

For long-term treatment of constipation, bulk-forming agents such as Metamucil or Prodem Plain can be used. These bulk-forming agents increase the stool weight, allowing the stool to pass through the body faster and cause more frequent bowel movements. These agents typically take about 12-72 hours to take effect and are usually safe to use for long periods of time. When taking bulk-forming agents, it is recommended to drink lots of fluid.

For young children there are a few options. For immediate relief a pediatric glycerin suppository can be tried. For chronic long term management PEG 3350 is often prescribed, or is available over-the-counter as LAX-A-Day. You should consult your family doctor however if you want to try an oral medication for a child suffering from chronic constipation.

If you are not having trouble going to the washroom, but you find the stool to be too hard and painful to pass, the pharmacist may recommend a stool softener such as Colace (docusate sodium) that will soften the stool for increased comfort.

Before deciding on a therapy, talk to a pharmacist and they can help you decide on a treatment that is right for you.

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LOCAL NEWS

WEATHER: Reports of duck and geese deaths around the province

Long winter taking its toll on waterfowl

PAUL MORDEN
QMI Agency

The long, cold winter is leading to reports of waterfowl deaths across Ontario.

Dead birds have been reported in recent days in Niagara, Toronto and in the St. Clair River near Sarnia, said Jolanta Kowalski, a spokeswoman with Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources.

Some of the dead birds found in the Niagara area were sent for testing, she said.

"The results indicated that they were starved."

Earlier this week, staff with the Ontario Environment Ministry responded to reports of dead birds in the St. Clair River and observed a

large number of dead birds, including a dozen, along with increased access to food

The most recent evidence a spill from industry was at fault, the ministry said.

Harold Moddejone lives

south of White Line on the river near Sombra and said he has been seeing "many, many, many" dead waterfowl in the water in recent days.

"If I had to estimate, at the rate they were going by me, there's hundreds of dead ducks between my house and Branderwick," he said.

Scotiabank Point Waterfowl Research and Education Centre, said the fact deaths are happening in several places around the province indicate they aren't connected to an individual industrial incident.

Instead, it's the result of a number of factors, a shortage of food and changes in waterfowl wintering patterns.

"I'm hearing of thousands of birds dying in the Niagara River," Petrie said.

More and more birds are wintering in Ontario because of warmer conditions, along with increased access to food

sources that include zebra mussels and grain left in fields because of farmers' move to no-till and low-till practices, he said.

"But then, all of a sudden, you get a winter like this," Petrie said.

Because still waterways have frozen over, waterfowl are forced to fly long distances to find open water.

"And those aren't the most suitable habitats for these birds," he said.

Birds use up more energy dealing with the stronger currents in large rivers. Also, leftover grain in farm fields some depend on for food remains covered in snow and can't be reached, he said.

"There's less and less food, and more and more cold, and a long winter," Petrie said.

"They're reaching that point right now that a lot of them are starving to death."

Petrie said Long Point Waterfowl has been collect-

ing some of the dead birds for testing to see if contaminants are contributing to their poor condition and starvation.

"At this point, we don't know," he said, "but we're taking advantage of the opportunity to collect a lot of birds."

Petrie said there was a similar situation several years ago when approximately 2,000 birds were reported to have died, including many on Lake St. Clair.

"It has happened before, but certainly not to the severity of this year, especially on the Niagara River where we're losing lots of birds," he said.

But, he added, it's not expected to have a major overall impact.

"All of our waterfowl populations are doing quite well," he said.

"The ducks will be OK."

Kowalski said wild waterfowl often have complex digestive systems and the ministry doesn't recommend



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A deceased duck is pictured on ice in the St. Clair River recently. The long, cold winter is contributing to waterfowl deaths across Ontario, government officials say.

that individuals attempt to feed them.

"It's hard for people because they want to be kind,"

but it may actually do more harm than good," she said.

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IMPORT DATEBOOK

MARCH 20

SPRING FASHION SHOW

presented by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4, at 383 Morningstar Ave., Welland, 2 p.m. Fashions by Alia and Tan Jay. Tickets \$10 or \$12 plus a meal. Light lunch and prizes included. Call the legion at 905-734-3611.

JOBS NIAGARA

Join Celine Johnson from Jobs Niagara at Welland Public Library as she discusses the disability programs it offers. She will help people with disabilities of any kind make connections, search jobs and build a better future. This program is from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Registration required. For more information on all library programs call 905-734-6210 ext. 2521, visit the information desk or see www.welland.library.on.ca.

LEGO TIME

at Wainfleet Township Public

Library, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to drop-in to build a Lego or Duplo creation. Do not bring your own Lego.

VICTORIAN BEAUTY SECRETS

workshop runs 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Halton County Museum & Archives, 8 Echo St. W. This hands-on workshop will include a talk on Victorian beauty products, practices and secrets. Participants will have the opportunity to sample and make some of the items featured. Cost is \$10 per person. Refreshments, take-home products and light refreshments. Registration is required. Call 905-772-5880 or register online through Halton County's Leisure Link program code 7023.

MARCH 22

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a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Goodwill building, Plympton Rd. It's a fun筹iser for the Welland Pathfinder's trip to Europe. Registration is required. Call 905-772-5880 or register online through Halton County's Leisure Link program code 7023.

THE HOBBIT

Diamond Trail branch library shows The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug before its release on DVD. This movie is rated PG-13 and runs for 161 minutes. Caregivers of children under the age of

13 must obtain a free ticket from the circulation desk. The movie begins at noon. For more information on all Diamond Trail programs call 905-322-1013.

FIRST RUN FILM

Welland Public Library is showing The Secret Life of Walter Mitty before it's released on DVD. Everyone is welcome, no registration is required. This movie begins at 2 p.m.

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hosted by Fonthill Lions at 7 p.m. at the Fonthill Lions hall. Prizes, light food, cash bar. Cost \$5.

CHIP BANQUET

Christian Heritage Party of Canada invites you to its annual banquet at 41715th St., Jordan Station. David Reimer, Manitoba president and interim leader, will speak on the importance of Christians in politics. Dinner tickets \$20. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m. Seats only at 7 p.m. Call 505-562-5791 or e-mail chipbanquet2014@gmail.com.

MARCH 23

ESTER MISSION LUNCHEON

at St. John the Baptist Hungarian Greek Church, 111 Secord St., Welland. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m., luncheon 12:30 p.m. For tickets call 905-732-2942 or 905-735-7055. On the 29th fill a grocery bag for \$2.

NEW NFB FILM

Welland Public Library is showing the newest production from the National Film Board of Canada — NCR: Not Criminally Responsible. The movie begins at 2 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

MARINER'S SERVICE

starts at 7 p.m. at St. James & St. Brendan Church, 55 Charlotte St., Port Colborne. This community service celebrates with guest speakers and music the opening of the 2014 shipping and selling season of the canal. A reception to follow at the Gold Hall with live entertainment.

MARCH 24

BOOK SALE

running until March 29 at Welland Public Library. Gently-used books for sale, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and more. On the 29th fill a grocery bag for \$2.



AUCTION DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 22

AUCTION TIME: VIEWING AT 11AM -AUCTION AT 12PM SHARP
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strong communication skills, product knowledge, the ability to sell required
maintenance, computer literacy (Revels) would be an asset. Must have
high ethical work habits.

Responsibilities

- scheduling appointments
- provide repair recommendations, and general maintenance of vehicles
- setting repair work

We thank all applicants, but only those contacted will be contacted for an interview.

Apply by email: Michael.Pastenky@billstoyotasales.com
CC to hr@billstoyotasales.com

Apply by mail:
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'MIRACLE MOLECULE' SUPERCHARGES CIRCULATION, PROMISING BETTER BLOOD FLOW, BLOOD PRESSURE AND INCREASED MENTAL CLARITY & STAMINA!

Are you concerned with high blood pressure or cholesterol, a lack of stamina and energy, dizziness or "senior moments"? The area of health without these health concerns has been discovered in what scientists are calling the most important health breakthrough of our time. The discovery starts with nitric oxide (N-O).

OVER 40 LOSING CRITICAL RESERVES

N-O is a natural substance produced by the body that has amazing effects on health and circulation. The American Heart Association published one of many studies showing that many people over 40 don't produce enough N-O. In fact, your body produces less than half of what it did at 20.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNING DISCOVERY

Three researchers received the prestigious Prize for this discovery. One of the winners says, "There may be no disease process where this miracle molecule does not have a protective role".

GOOD NEWS FOR BOOMERS!

Researchers reported that N-O helps with energy levels, blood pressure, cholesterol, joint discomfort, and assisted in strengthening the immune system.

90-SECOND CIRCULATION BOOSTER

Based on the research of Dr. Nathan S. Bryan, PhD, who lectures to doctors around the world about Nitric Oxide, Neogenix® Labs has created a revolutionary lozenge called Neo 40 daily, that makes it easy to restore N-O levels.

This "fast-dissolve" lozenge restores your N-O to youthful levels by dissolving within 90 seconds and begins to work immediately, which leads to better circulation, for many as little as 20 minutes.

BETTER CIRCULATION TO BETTER BODY

Better circulation helps increase stamina, maximizes metabolism, helps manage stress and maintains healthy sexual function.

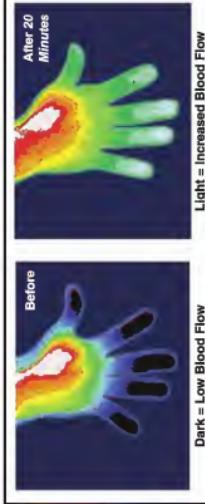
Healthy N-O levels also promote better blood pressure and cholesterol as a result of improved circulation to all major organs.

SURPRISE BENEFITS FOR MEN & WOMEN

"Adaptive amounts of Nitric Oxide insure sufficient amounts of blood to flow to the extremities, especially the penis, resulting in an erection. The same applies to women; without proper blood flow to the organs, organs are difficult," says Dr. Bryan. A boost in Nitric Oxide levels may equal increased sexual sensitivity for men and women.

Tammy on Heart said, "The first night after my first dose I had improved circulation in my hands. I find the increased circulation is a definite benefit in the bedroom."

"We noticed a difference in my husband's erections" within a week. We can't believe how well it works," reports pleased wife Marion S. of New York.



Actual Thermographic Image of Hand showing circulation in hands before and after taking Neo 40 daily. On the Left, the fingers are almost black showing little blood flow. On the Right, lighter colored fingers show increased blood flow after only 20 minutes.

The natural chemistry between them generates Nitric Oxide when dissolved in the mouth. The result is increased oxygen delivery, improved vascular function, enhanced sexual function, and protection against free radicals.

BOOST BLOOD FLOW & OXYGEN

STARTING IN 20 MINUTES!

"I recommend this lozenge because it helps the body restore N-O, which leads to healthy circulation; for most as little as 20 minutes," affirms Dr. Bryan. The result is increased oxygen delivery, heightened immune function, improved vascular function, and enhanced sexual enjoyment.

NATURAL RESULTS YOU CAN FEEL.

Lee L., from CA was stunned with her results. "I had knee, leg and shoulder problems for over 10 years. The pain has deprived me of sleep for months." Ronald D. TX explains, "The results were noticeable overnight. I had more energy, and was able to focus more readily."

BEET & BERRY COMBO BOOSTS N-O

Neo 40 daily provides a combination of N-O boosting nutrients: amino acids, B vitamins, Vitamin C, and Magnesium are specially formulated with the patient pending combination of red beet and hawthorn berry.

CLINICALLY SHOWN TO HELP YOUR BODY:

- Reduce triglyceride levels (27% average in 30 days)
- Support healthy blood pressure
- Support cardiovascular and heart health



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